

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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A1  
1. A sheet folding apparatus for folding the  
sheet by nipping and conveying a sheet by a pair of  
folding rollers and, wherein at least one of the pair  
of folding rollers has large-diameter portion and  
small-diameter portion along an axis thereof. *via gloves 24826*

2. A sheet folding apparatus according to claim  
1, wherein a large-diameter portion for nipping and  
conveying the sheet is provided at a sheet convey  
center portion of the roller. *F. 2-4*

3. A sheet folding apparatus according to claim  
2, wherein the large-diameter portion is provided at  
the sheet convey center portion such that a width of  
the large-diameter portion in the axis direction, which  
is provided at the sheet convey center portion of the  
folding roller is substantially 1/2 of a minimum width  
of a sheet size foldable in the sheet folding  
apparatus. *F. 2-4*

4. A sheet folding apparatus according to claim  
3, wherein the large-diameter portion of the roller is  
positioned outside a movable range of a maximum-size  
sheet in the apparatus.

5. A sheet folding apparatus according to claim

1, wherein a predetermined gap is formed between the rollers at a convey nip between the pair of folding rollers. *F. 1, 384*

5           6. A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 4, wherein a predetermined gap is formed between the rollers at a convey nip between the pair of folding rollers.

10           7. A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the predetermined gap between the rollers is set smaller than a thickness of three sheets conveyed to the nip. *F. 3 84*

15           8. A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the predetermined gap between the rollers is set smaller than a thickness of three sheets conveyed to the nip.

20           9. A sheet folding apparatus according to claim *ENC* 1, wherein the large-diameter portion of the roller is tapered.

*ENC*  
25           10. A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the large-diameter portion of the roller includes a taper.

11. An image forming apparatus having image forming means for forming an image on a sheet, sheet conveying means for conveying the sheet on which the image is formed by said image forming means, and sheet folding processing means for folding the conveyed sheet, including a sheet folding apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 10 as said sheet folding processing means.